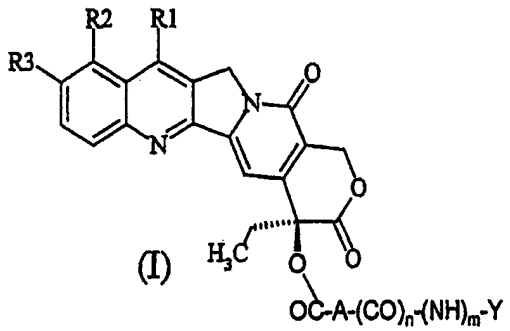
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended) ~~Formula (I) compounds~~A compound of Formula I



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl-C_1-C_8 alkyl;

n and m are both O or both 1;

when n and m are equal to 1, then Y is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted with $NR_{12}R_{13}$ or $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$, where R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen or straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, or Y is BCOOX, where B is ~~a residue of an amino acid~~an organic compound bearing at least one carboxyl residue and at least one amine residue, X is H, straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, substituted in the available positions with at least one group selected from C_1-C_4 alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or,

if n and m are both 0; Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of

inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$, as defined above;

R_1 is ~~hydrogen or~~ a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_1-C_5 alkenyl group, or a C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C_3C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a C_6-C_{14} aryl group, or a straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a heterocydic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, said heterocycic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocydic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR_6R_7$, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the –COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the $-CONR_8R_9$ group, where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl; or R_4 is a (C_6-C_{10}) aroyl or (C_6-C_{10}) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR_{10}R_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11}, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl; or R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl ~~residue~~substituent; or R_4 is a glycosyl ~~residue~~substituent; R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl;

R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy; and

the N1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n and m are 1.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n and m are 0.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group

consisting of:

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium-3-hydroxy)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-hemisuccinyl-camptothecin;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-[2-(dimethylamino)ethylamino]succinylcamptothecin hydrochloride;

20-O-(~~benzylglicy~~benzylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;

20-O-(terbutylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin bromide;

7-ter-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(terbutylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;

20-O-(glycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;

20-O-(2-methoxyphenylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin; and

7-ter-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(2-methoxy-phenylglycyl)
succinyl-camptothecin.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~a compound according to claim 1, where n and m are 0, comprising:

a) reaction of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with the R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid bearing a leaving group ω to obtain the respective ester in position 20; and

b) substitution of said leaving group with the Y group.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~a compound according to claim 1, where n and m are 1, comprising:

a) reaction of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with the R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid with 3 to 11 carbon atoms, to obtain the respective hemiester in position 20; and

b) transformation of the free carboxylic group of said hemiester to the respective amide -NH-Y.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1, in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~A pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~9~~8, ~~in which the other~~also containing an anticancer agent as an active ingredient ~~is an anticancer agent~~.

11.-13. (Canceled).

14. (New) A compound according to claim 1, in which B is glycine, alanine, phenylalanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine, tyrosine, and γ-aminobutyric acid or a salt on a free carboxyl and/or on a free basic group with pharmaceutically acceptable base or acid.

15. (New) A method of treating a tumor susceptible to treatment with a camptothecin comprising administering to a subject having a susceptible tumor an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the tumor is a lung cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer or a glioma.

17. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the tumor is a lung tumor.

18. (New) A method of treating a parasitic infection or a viral infection susceptible to treatment with a camptothecin comprising administering to a subject having a susceptible parasitic or viral infection an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.